



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

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Second Ward

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**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to Southeast Como, 10-5-10**

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, October 12th, 9:30-11:00am
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

Items:

- 1) Commercial Recycling Requirement
- 2) Murphy Warehouse Solar Installation
- 3) Thinc.Green
- 4) Green Building Policy
- 5) Energy Efficiency in Apartment Buildings
- 6) FBI Raids on Minneapolis Peace Activists
- 7) Audit Committee
- 8) Parkland Dedication Ordinance
- 9) Small and Underutilized Business ordinance
- 10) Met Council 2030 Transportation Plan
- 11) Youth Violence Prevention Grant
- 12) 2010 Census
- 13) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) I plan to give notice of intent to introduce subject matter of an ordinance requiring commercial entities to recycle. Working with the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, I helped produce a survey to businesses on current recycling practices and their opinion on a mandate. The results were very favorable: over 90% of businesses currently recycle, with the supermajority recycling paper, cardboard, glass, metal and plastic; over 90% of businesses have had no issues with their recycling service; the plurality of businesses – **48%** – support a recycling requirement for businesses. It's clear that the business community is ready for a recycling mandate. It's also clear that the City has the capacity to enforce this new requirement. The Fire Department has been charged with inspecting all commercial buildings in Minneapolis. MFD staff has assured me that it would be practical to include compliance with the recycling requirement as one of the things they look for. I will also be moving forward a new requirement for trash haulers that service Minneapolis businesses to share tonnage information with Solid Waste and Recycling staff. I believe that this will be a significant step in the direction of diverting a greater percentage of the waste being generated in Minneapolis to recycling, decreasing the amount of material going into landfills and the garbage burner. I will be fighting hard to ensure that this passes in the strongest possible form, because I see it as a critical opportunity for the City to live up to our commitment to sustainability.
- 2) I was delighted to learn that Southeast Como-based Murphy Warehouse is making a \$1 million investment (though after state, federal and utility rebates the cost to the business will only be \$90,000) in solar panels for its facilities. The panels are being installed on the roofs of the company's facilities in Fridley and, later this fall, on the company headquarters in Southeast Como. The company expects to save \$22,000 annually in energy costs and will recoup its investment within four years. Way to go Murphy Warehouse!
- 3) Minneapolis and St. Paul have joined together to form Thinc.Green, an unprecedented economic-development partnership to retain, grow and attract green-manufacturing businesses and jobs in the Minneapolis Saint Paul region. I am very supportive of this effort, and worked to ensure that the steering committee for the partnership includes a representative from organized labor.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

If you want help translating this call – Hmong- Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2188;

Spanish – Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2188;

Somali – Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

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- 4)
- 5)
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- 8) The City Council has begun the process of developing a new City Green Building Policy. In the months ahead we will convene an interdepartmental green building policy work team to be chaired by the Green Building Policy Manager and Director of Economic Development with representatives from various other relevant divisions and departments including the offices of the City Council and the Mayor. The work group will review best practices supporting green buildings in other communities across the country as well as current policies, procedures and practices of the City that promote green building practices and report back to Council with policy options and recommendations of how the City can further support green buildings. The City is also hosting a series of lectures on the following green building topics: the Hiawatha facility on October 8, from 2-4pm at Hiawatha Avenue South and E 26th St; International Green Construction Code on October 14, from 9-11am in City Hall Room 333; and LEED and LEED for Homes on October 26, 10-11:30am in City Hall room 319.
- 9) A city-wide, low-interest loan program to provide financing for energy efficiency upgrades is available for large multi-family residential properties in Minneapolis. The loans for structures of four stories or more containing more than 10 dwelling units are being established through the City's Department of Community Planning and Economic Development. The program is aimed at helping property owners to obtain the capital needed to make energy efficiency improvements. The loans target upgrades including boilers, water heating and distribution systems, and control systems. For more information, visit http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/multifamily_energy_loan_program.asp.
- 10) The Federal Bureau of Investigation has served subpoenas on local peace activists, including at least one Second Ward resident, and searched their homes. They claim that this is an investigation into "activities connected to the material support of terrorism" by the "Joint Terrorism Task Force." I have released a statement in support of the activists, which you can read at the Second Ward blog, and attended a protest against these raids at the FBI's local headquarters in downtown.
- 11) The Council has formally established a new Audit committee. Unlike most City Council committees, the decisions of which are subject to final approval by the Council, Audit will be an independent committee. Though I voted against creating this committee, because I continue to feel that this audit function would be better served by the Board of Estimate and Taxation, I hope that it works as well as possible.
- 12) The Council has adopted changes to the parkland dedication ordinance, which will require developers to either provide public open space as part of new developments or contribute to a fund that will be used to establish new park infrastructure.
- 13) The Council has extended our SUBP ordinance, which we are required to do every year in order to continue to mandate that contractors working on City-financed projects do business with minority and women-owned contractors. I am extremely supportive of this program; the City needs to do more to close the gap in employment and income between the minority and majority populations in our city.
- 14) The Metropolitan Council is working on a 2030 regional transportation policy plan. The City Council has commented on the plan, advocating an additional emphasis on rail and calling for a regional bicycle master plan.
- 15) The City has accepted a \$325,000 grant from the Department of Justice for youth gang prevention. This comes out of the City's ongoing work to implement the Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence.
- 16) Minneapolis had tremendous success this year in increasing our census participation rate. As of May, the City's mail back participation rate was 76%, up from 68% in 2000 and the highest response rate of any city with populations of 300,000 or more in the country. You can see a map of the response rate by census tract here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/2010census/docs/2010v2000CensusParticipation.pdf>.
- 17) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC), Commission on Civil Rights, Civilian Police Review Authority, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC), Latino Advisory Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, Telecommunications Network (MTN), Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.